

Amendment of Claims:

Claims 1-7. (Canceled)

Claim 8. (Currently amended) A method of imparting water deficit tolerance to a crop plant by crossing a first transgenic crop plant with a second crop plant wherein said first transgenic crop plant contains recombinant DNA which expresses a transcription factor having ~~amino-acids~~ ~~with~~ at least 50% identity to SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said method further comprises a screening process for identification of the water deficit tolerance trait.

Claim 9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8 wherein said second crop plant comprises recombinant DNA which expresses a protein that confers at least one of an herbicide resistance trait or a pest resistance trait.

Claim 10-13. (Canceled)

Claim 14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8 wherein said transcription factor has ~~amino-acids with~~ at least 80% identity to SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8 wherein said transcription factor has ~~amino-acids with~~ at least 90% identity to SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8 wherein said transcription factor has ~~amino-acids~~ 100% identity to ~~[[of]]~~ SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 17-18. (Canceled)

Claim 19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8 wherein said transcription factor comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 20-24. (Canceled)

Claim 25. (New) The method of claim 8 wherein said transcription factor has at least 70% identity to SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 26. (New) The method of claim 8 wherein said crop plant is a soy, cotton, canola, maize, wheat, sunflower, sorghum, alfalfa, barley, millet, rice, tobacco, fruit, vegetable, or turfgrass plant.